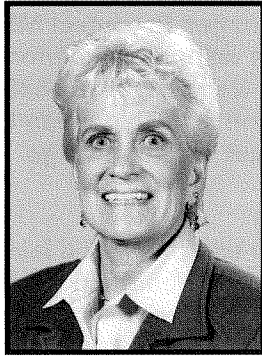


# Hammerstrom's

for the people  
in the 17th Senate District

# Hotline



State Senator  
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**CAPITOL CELEBRATES 125TH ANNIVERSARY** 125 years ago, on January 1, 1879, the current State Capitol building was dedicated to the people of Michigan. Organizers for the 125th anniversary celebration have planned many special events for the entire year, including the release of a limited-edition commemorative coin which will be handed out to Capitol visitors throughout the year, and the creation of a permanent artifacts room featuring Capitol-related pictures and memorabilia. This room offers a captivating timeline of events surrounding the history of Michigan's capital city. The Capitol building was designed by Elijah Myers, who also designed state capitols for Colorado and Texas. From 1989 to 1992, the building was renovated due to years of deterioration and restored to include characteristics of the original 1870's architecture. For more information about the anniversary celebration, or to learn more about Capitol tours, please visit [www.michigan.gov](http://www.michigan.gov) and click on the "Michigan Government" link.

**DID YOU KNOW?** There are 20 chandeliers located throughout the Capitol building. They are known as "Michigan" chandeliers because they feature an elk and shield from our state's coat-of-arms.

**SENATE RECOGNIZES "NATIONAL VOTER REGISTRATION WEEK"** The Michigan Senate passed a resolution last week recognizing March 6-12 as National Voter Registration Week. Legislators overwhelmingly supported SR 222 in an effort to remind the state's residents that registering to vote is almost effortless, due to the National Voter Registration Act of 1994. The federal law, effective January 1, 1995, requires states to allow citizens to register to vote when they obtain or renew their driver's licenses and at designated government agencies, including those serving public assistance recipients and people with disabilities. To be eligible to register to vote, one must be a U.S. citizen, at least 18 years of age by Election Day, and a resident of Michigan and the city or township where the application is filed. For more information in regard to voter registration and dates for the 2004 election cycle, please visit the Secretary of State's website at [www.michigan.gov/sos](http://www.michigan.gov/sos), or contact my office toll-free at 1-888-477-8238.

**MDOT OPENS POTHOLE HOTLINE** The Michigan Department of Transportation recently announced a way for motorists to raise the agency's awareness of problematic potholes in state roads. Drivers are encouraged to contact MDOT to help them identify the location of potholes needing repair and, in turn, the department will pass the information along to the nearest Transportation Service Center (TSC). To report a pothole, call toll-free 1-888-296-4546, or visit the MDOT website at [www.michigan.gov/mdot](http://www.michigan.gov/mdot). Please have the following information available when contacting MDOT: the road name, the county, nearest community, and the closest cross street or interchange. The Pothole Hotline is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

**RESIDENTS CAN CONTRIBUTE TO CANCER RESEARCH FUND ON TAX FORM** The Senate recently passed legislation to establish "Amanda's Fund for Breast Cancer Research," which would allow individuals to donate to the fund when they fill out their tax forms. If signed into law, residents will be able to designate on their annual tax return that a contribution of \$2 or more of their refund be credited to the research fund. Money donated to the fund will be used to promote research in Michigan relating to breast cancer. The state Department of Community Health will run the program which will begin in 2005. Senate Bills 581 and 582 now head to the House for consideration.

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[www.senate.michigan.gov/hammerstrom/news/Hotline.htm](http://www.senate.michigan.gov/hammerstrom/news/Hotline.htm).